

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 11, 2005. Claims 4-9 remain pending. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that Claims 4-9 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form with no change in scope. Claims 4, 5, and 8 have been so amended and thus are in condition for allowance, as are Claims 6, 7, and 9 which depend from one or another of those claims.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,828,352 (*Nomura et al.*). Without conceding the propriety of this rejection but simply to obtain early allowance, Claims 1-3 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

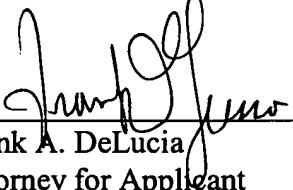
All remaining claims are believed to be in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by

telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our  
below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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